Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 FREETO 01853 042206Z

63/43
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /064 W
---------- 074222
P R 011650Z JUL 75 ZEL
FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1658
INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L FREETOWN 1853

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

CORRECTED COPY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV PINT SL
SUBJECT: ONE PARTY STATE MOVES NEARER: NEW CONSTITUTION COMING?

1. SL PARLIAMENT JULY 31 UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED PRIVATE MEMBER'S MOTION SUBMITTED BY BACKBENCHER WILLIAM CONTEH (BOMBALI SOUTHEAST) RESOLVING THAT HOUSE "AGREES TO IPLEMENT WISHES OF PEOPLE OF SL TO TRANSFORM THIS COUNTRY INTO ONE PARTY STATE AND FOR THIS PURPOSE CALLS UPON GOVT TO INTRUDUCE A NEW ONE PARTY REPUBLICAN CONSTITUTION FOR SL UNDER SEC 42 OF 1971 CONSTITUTION."

2. PRIVATE MEMBER'S MOTION RECEIVED FULL SUPPORT OF GOVT SPOKESMEN DURING ENSUING DEBATE AND VOTE, WITH CONSIDERABLE SENTIMENT EXPRESSED THAT ONE PARTY STATE IS PROPER, APPROPRIATE AND MORE EFFECTIVE FORM OF GOVT FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRY AND THAT EXAMPLES OF AFTERMATH OF ELECTIONS IN WESTERN COUNTRIES SHOULD, IN WORDS VICE PRSSIDENT S.I. KOROMA, PERMIT ONE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 FREETO 01853 042206Z

"BE FULLY CONVINCED OF EVILS OF MULTI-PARTY SYSTEM

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

OF GOVERNMENT." PARLIAMENTARIANS WERE QUICK AND
EAGER TO BOARD ONE-PARTY BANDWAGON.

3. WHAT WILL FOLLOW NEXT IN TERMS MECHANICS OR
ACTIONS IS AT THIS POINT UNCLEAR. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION SERVICE REPORTAGE HAS CONSISTENTLY
STATED THAT MOTION CALLS FOR INTRODUCTION OF NEW
CONSTITUTION THROUGH "REFERENDUM." EMBASSY INFORMED
BY MEMBER DIPLOMATIC CORPS THAT ATTORNEY GENERAL
TOLD HIM THAT GOVT PLANS PRESENT BILL PROBABLY IN
LATE AUGUST AUTHORIZING A NEW CONSTITUTION WHICH
WOULD BE RATIFIED BY A REFERENDUM, PROBABLY BY
EARLY NOVEMBER.

4. PRESENT CONSTITUTION DOES NOT, HOWEVER, PERMIT
ALTERATION BE CARRIED OUT LEGALLY IN THIS MANNER.
SECTION 42 OF 1971 CONSTITUTION, WHICH CITED IN
MOTION, DOES NOT COVER SUBJECT OF POSSIBLE REFERENDUM
BUT MERELY PROVIDES THAT THE POWER OF PARLIAMENT TO
MAKE LAWS SHALL BE EXERCISED BY BILLS PASSED BY
PARLIAMENT AND SIGNED BY PRESIDENT AND THAT A BILL
SHALL NOT BECOME LAW UNLESS DULY PASSED AND SIGNED
IN ACCORDANCE WITH CONSTITUTION. ONLY AMENDATORY
AUTHORITY OF PRESENT CONSTITUTION IS SEC 34 WHICH
PERMITS PARLIAMENT TO ALTER ANY PROVISION
OF CONSTITUTION PROVIDED THAT ANY ALTERATION OF
CERTAIN "ENTRENCHED CLAUSES," INCLUDING AMENDATORY
ARTICLE ITSELF, SHALL NOT BE SUBMITTED TO
PRESIDENT FOR SIGNATURE UNLESS "THE BILL HAS BEEN
PASSED BY PARLIAMENT IN TWO SUCCESSIVE SESSIONS
THERE HAVING BEEN A DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT
BETWEEN THE FIRST AND SECOND OF THOSE SESSIONS."
SEC 34 FURTHER PROVIDES THAT AMENDMENT BILLS
ON "ENTRENCHED CLAUSES" MUST BE CARRIED BY TWO-THIRDS
AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF ALL MEMBERS IN BOTH CASES.

5. GOVERNMENT'S RELUCTANCE FOLLOW NORMAL AMENDATORY
PROCEDURE IS CLEARLY BASED ON DISTASTE FOR DISSOLUTION
OF PARLIAMENT AND SUBSEQUQNT ELECTION WHICH, BY PRESENT
CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS, REQUIRED FOR LEGAL AMEN-
CONFIDENTIAL

MENT OF "ENTRENCHED CLAUSES," OTHERS OF WHICH PROVIDES
FOR FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION (SEC 12)
AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION (SEC 11). SINCE SIERRA
LEONE ALREADY A DE FACTO ONE PARTY STATE WITH ALL
PEOPLES CONGRESS (APC) GOVERNMENT HOLDING ALL
PARLIAMENTARY SEATS, RELUCTANCE NOT BASED ON
POSSIBLE THREAT OF OPPOSITIN VICTORY, ISNCE THERE
IS NONE. MORE LIKELY APC LEADERSHIP RELUCTANT

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

UNLEASH DIVISIVE AND COMPETITIVE INFLUENCES WITHIN
PARTY WHICH SCRAMBLE FOR SEATS AMONG AMBITIOUS LOCAL
POLITICIANS WOULD STIMULATE.

6. COMMENT: MOVE HAS CONFUSED AND CONCERNED EVEN SOME
MEMBERS OF CABINET WHO HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND
CONSTITUTION. OUTCOME ANY REFERENDUM BY NO MEANS
CLEAR. SOME PERCEPTIVE OBSERVERS BELIEVE OPPOSITION TO IDEA
LOCALLY SO STRONG THAT, IF REFERENDUM TAKEN BY
SECRET BALLOT, GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE DEFEATED.
EMBASSY DOUBTS GOSL NAIVE ENOUGH TO LET THAT
HAPPEN. ONE THING IS SURE, ONE-PARTY STATE HERE ALMOST
CERTAINLY IN THE CARDS, WHETHER LEGALLY OR OTHERWISE.
END COMMET.
SAMUELS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTITUTION, CONSTITUTIONAL LAW, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975FREETO01853
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750269-0001
From: FREETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750792/aaaadetj.tel
Line Count: 130
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <05 NOV 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ONE PARTY STATE MOVES NEARER: NEW CONSTITUTION COMING?
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, SL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006